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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,267	07/09/2003	Jason R. Sullivan	98-P0163US04 [209.1270014]	1701
54953	7590	07/02/2010	[REDACTED]	EXAMINER
BROOKS, CAMERON & HUEBSCH, PLLC 1221 NICOLLET AVENUE SUITE 500 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403			SEVERSON, RYAN J	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	3731	[REDACTED]
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
07/02/2010	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/616,267	Applicant(s) SULLIVAN ET AL.
	Examiner Ryan J. Severson	Art Unit 3731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 November 2009.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 55,56,61,62,65-77 and 81-89 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 82-84 and 89 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 55,56,61,62,65-77,81 and 85-88 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

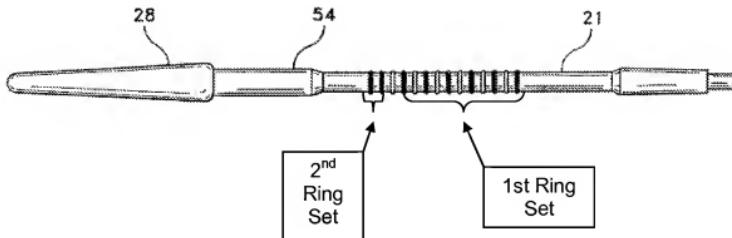
1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. **Claims 55, 56, 61, 62, 65, 67, 72-77, 81 and 85-88 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hachtman et al. (5,645,559).** Hachtman et al. disclose a stent delivery system comprising an outer sheath (18) and a stabilizer (26). The stabilizer comprises a non-inflatable inner core (21, see figure 22) having a plurality of ring-shaped protuberances that contact the inner surface of the stent (see column 5, lines 13-17) to frictionally engage the stent. This frictional engagement prevents the stent from moving relative to the stabilizer during retraction of the outer sheath. The stabilizer can also include a proximal shoulder not disposed under the stent (as in figure 22). The plurality of rings define two sets of rings (see annotated figure 22 below, where the first ring set is defined by the shaded rings shown below and the second set is defined by the two adjacent rings at the distal end of the stabilizer) wherein each set of rings includes at least two rings, the rings in the first set lie along the length of the stent-underlying portion and are spaced in a first pattern and the rings in the second set lie at the distal end of the stent-underlying portion and are spaced in a second pattern that is different than the first pattern. The rings in the first set are spaced apart twice the distance as the rings in the second set.

FIG-22



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claim 66 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hachtman et al. (5,645,559) in view of Ravenscroft et al. (5,480,423).** Hachtman et al. fail to disclose the sheath has a lower coefficient of friction than the stabilizer. Attention is drawn to Ravenscroft et al. who teach the use of a Teflon sheath (see column 5, line 21) to minimize the friction between the sheath and stent and stabilizer during retraction of the sheath. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the sheath of Hachtman et al. of Teflon in the manner taught by Ravenscroft et al. to minimize the friction between the sheath and stent and stabilizer during retraction of the sheath.

5. **Claims 68-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hachtman et al. (5,645,559).** Hachtman et al. fail to disclose a coating on the stabilizer core. However, Examiner asserts including coatings on catheter shafts is well-known in the art. An example would be providing an anti-biotic coating on the shaft to help prevent infection during the surgical procedure. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included a coating on the stabilizer of Hachtman et al. to prevent infection during surgery. In the alternative, Examiner holds that the rings can be considered the covering because the surround the core (21) and are sleeve shaped (i.e. annular).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 55, 65, 72, 81, 85 and 87 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection as described above. Examiner notes that the claim amendments setting forth first and second sets of rings does not define specifically how many rings are present in the set, or their specific arrangement relative to one another. Examiner holds that the claims are broad enough that the "set" can be an arbitrarily defined collection of rings, which has been done in the rejection above.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

8. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan J. Severson whose telephone number is (571) 272-3142. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30-5:00.

10. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3731

11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ryan J Severson/
Examiner, Art Unit 3731
6/30/10

/Anhtuan T. Nguyen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731
6/30/10